

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended as set forth above. Accordingly, claims 1-6 remain for consideration in this application.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Willford (USP 5,566,579).

The Willford structure was discussed in Applicant's response filed on September 11, 2008, beginning on page 8 thereof. Specifically, the discussion of Willford in the above Amendment concerned the depending finger 37 in Fig. 8 (also reference numeral 46 in Fig. 10 and upstanding tab 31b of Figs. 5 and 6).

Claim 1, as amended herein, clarifies the cam profile, and clearly distinguishes over the Willford reference. More specifically, amended claim 1 now recites, in part, the following:

...said shift arm having heteromorphous cams at a contacting part thereof, wherein said cams are in contact with said shift piece and wherein said heteromorphous cams have at least two different cam profiles which contact the same surface of said shift piece; and...

In the above portion of claim 1, the claim has been amended in order to more clearly recite that the heteromorphous cams have "at least two different cam profiles which contact the same surface of said shift piece".

The language above, in claim 1, in which the heteromorphous cams have at least "two different cam profiles" is not disclosed in Willford. For example, in Fig. 8 of Willford, depending finger 37 has at the end of it only a single cam profile which contacts a "same surface" of the shift piece. The advantage in leverage (see for example, page 5, lines 1-16 of the instant specification) caused by the structure in claim 1, is not present in Willford. Simply put, Willford

does not disclose a “heteromorphous cam” which has “at least two different cam profiles which contact the same surface of said shift piece”.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner Waits and Ridley for conducting a personal interview with the undersigned attorney on April 24, 2009. During the interview, the discussion focused mainly on claim 1 and the Willford reference. Language with regard to the “heteromorphous cams” of claim 1 was discussed. As noted above, it was discussed that depending finger 37 of Willford has only a single cam profile which has contact with a same (single) surface of a shift piece. This is illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6 of Willford, in which upstanding tab 31b has only a single cam profile which contacts a surface of shift block 70. On the other hand, it was pointed out that Figs. 5B and 5D of the instant application clearly show a “heteromorphous cam” in which two cam profiles contact the same surface of shift piece 41. Depending finger 37 of Willford does not have “two different cam profiles”. Language was discussed for amending claim 1. It was agreed that the language which was discussed overcomes the Willford reference. The amendment to claim 1, as set forth above, incorporates the agreed language discussed during the interview.

In view of the language set forth above in amended independent claim 1, and the discussion during the interview, Applicant submits that the rejection over Willford has been overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Willford in view of Jackson (USP 6,467,598).

Jackson is simply provided to show synchronizers for use in a multi-ratio manual transmission. Accordingly, since claims 3 and 4 are dependent, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, claims 3 and 4 are allowable over Willford, in view of Jackson, for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

In view of the amendments to the claims, and the remarks set forth above, as well as the interview conducted with Examiner Waits and Ridley, Applicants submits that the rejections have been overcome. Thus it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn and that claims 1-6 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

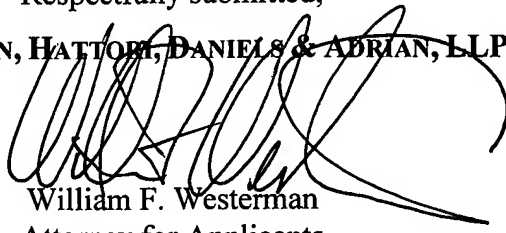
Application No.: 10/562,482
Art Unit: 3656

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
Attorney Docket No.: 053511

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to William F. Westerman, is written over the firm name.

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WFW/dlt